

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 NEA-10 EUR-25 AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 PC-04 OMB-01 M-03 A-01 RSR-01

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FM AMEMBASSY KAMPALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2366

C O N F I D E N T I A L KAMPALA 1354

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EAID US UG

SUBJECT: AMIN' S REACTION TO USAID WITHDRAWAL

REF: KAMPALA 1338

1. AS DEPARTMENT WELL AWARE, GENERAL AMIN IS NOT ONE OF MORE PREDICTABLE NATIONAL LEADERS WITH WHOM WE HAVE TO COPE. STILL, DESPITE HIS OFTEN WILD IMPROVISATIONS AND SUDDEN SELF- CONTRADICTIONS, THERE ARE SOME CONSISTENTCIES THAT CAN BE DISCERNED IN HIS BEHAVIOR, IF OFTEN ONLY AFTHETHE FACT.

2. HIS INITIAL PUBLIC REACTION TO UNOFFICIAL REPORT OF PLANNED WITHDRAWAL OF AMERICAN AID PROGRAM WAS THAT REPORTED REFTEL. QUESTION NOW IS, HOW WILL HE REACT WHEN HE LEARNS OFFICIALLY?

3. HIS GNERALLY CONSISTENT PATTERN OF RESPONSE IN PAST WHEN TERMINATIONS OF WESTERN AID PROGRAMS HAVE BEEN REVEALED HAS BEEN TO TAKE ALL OF FOLLOWING LINES:

A) TERMINATION RESULTS FROM PRESSURE APPLIED BY " BRITISH IMPERIALISTS" WHO WANT UGANDAN EFFORT TO PLACE ECONOMY IN HANDS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE TO FAIL;

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B) SUCH AID WAS OF NO USE TO US ANYWAY SINCE IT WAS GIVEN TO ADVANCE INTERESTS OF IMPERIALISTS;
C) WE ARE BETTER OFF WITHOUT IT BECAUSE WE HAVE TO LEARN TO RELY ON OUR OWN RESOURCES
D) WE HAVE FRIENDS TO TURN TO (EMG., ARABS) WHO ARE ONLY TOO GLAD TO HELP US.

4. AMIN HAS ALREADY TAKEN PUBLIC LINE GENERALLY CONSISTENT WITH THE ABOVE IN REACTING TO REPORTS OF AMERICAN AID WITHDRAWAL. THE MAJOR VARIATION WE MIGHT ANTICIPATE IN OUR CASE IS THAT HE WILL MAKE DISTINCTION BETWEEN USG AND, WHICH BEING WITHDRAWAL FOR POLITICAL/ BRITISH PRESSURE REASONS, AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FROM BLACK AMERICAN GROUPS SUCH AS CORE, WHICH IS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE IN LARGE NUMBERS OWING TO SUPPORT AMONG BLACK AMERICANS FOR GOU POLICIES OF PLACING ECONOMY IN HANDS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE, ETC.

5. POSSIBILITY EXISTS THAT HE WILL SAY: " FINE, IF YOU WANT TO LEAVE, WHY DON' T YOU LEAVE NOW INSTEAD OF WAITING UNTIL JUNE 30?" WHEREUPON HE WOULD GIVE AID PERSONNEL ONE WEEK, OR SOMETHING ON THAT ORDER, TO DEPART. THAT WOULD BE MOST INCONVENIENT, AND HUMANLY AND ADMINISTRATIVELY DIFFICULT, BUT COULD BE DONE.

6. SOME OF US HAVE BEEN WONDERING WHETHER HE WOULD GO SO FAR AS TO KICK US ALL OUT. AGAIN, WE CAN ONLY LOOK AT HIS PAST BEHAVIOR FOR CLUES. ONLY FOREIGN GROUP,(OTHER THAN ASIANS) EXPELLED IN THIS FASHION WERE ISRAELIS, AND IN THAT CASE THERE WERE FOLLOWING SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS WHICH DO NOT APPLY TO US:

A) SOMEONE CONVINCED AMIN THAT HE COULD NOT " AFFORD ISRAELI PRESENCE BECAUSE THEY WERE " MILKING" COUNTRY TO TUNE OF THREE MILLION SHILLINGS PER DAY (NEVER MIND THE INACCURATE FIGURE; HE HAD FOREIGN EXCHANGE PROBLEM, PART OF WHICH HE SOLVED BY SIMPLY " STOPPING PAYMENT");
B) ISRAELIS HAD LARGE NUMBER OF MILITARY TRAINERS/ ADVISERS SPREAD THROUGHOUT UGANDAN ARMY AND AIR FORCE, AND IN HIS PARANOIA AMIN DOUBTLESS WORRIED THAT THEY MIGHT DECIDE TO " PULL THE PLUG" ON HIM;
C) A CLEAN BREAK WITH THE ISRAELIS WAS PROBABLY A PREREQUISITE TO AMIN' S LOVE AFFAIR WITH THE ARABS.

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UM IN CONTRAST TO THE ABOVE, AMIN IS NOT PAYING US THAT

KIND OF MONEY, WE HAVE NO INVLOVEMENT WITH HIS MILITARY,
AND THOUGH HE SEES US AS INDIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE
MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT, WE ARE NOT A BELLIGERENT
HE FEELS HE MUST ATTACK DIRECTLY.

8. THE BRITISH, WHO HAVE NOT BEEN KICKED OUT BUT WHO ARE
LEAVING IN LARGE NUMBERS UNDER THEIR OWN STEAM, DO NOT PROVIDE
A GOOD ANALOGY, FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

- A) COMMONWEALTH TIES;
- B) AS THE FORMER COLONIAL POWER, THERE EXISTS THE TRADITIONAL
LOVE- HATE RELATIONSHIP WHICH IS SPECIAL AND SPECIFIC TO THE UK;
- C) THE BRITISH ARE HEAVILY INVOLVED IN THE UGANDAN ECONLMY
AND WE ARE NOT ;
- D) THERE HAVE BEEN EXPREPRIATIONS OF MAJOR BRITISH AND
BRITISH- ASIAN INVESTMENTS, WHEREAS WE HAVE ONLY (SO FAR) HARRY
ENGEL' S ITS;
- E) BRITAIN' S CULTURAL/ EDUCATIONAL HERITAGE IS PARAMOUNT FOREIGN
INFLUENCE IN THIS COUNTRY, CREATING A NEED TO DILUTE IT IN
THE INTERST OF UGANDANIZATION, WHEREAS THERE IS VERY LITTLE
AMERICAN THAT ASKS TO BE DELT WITH.

9. FINALLY, AS NOTED TOWARD THE END OF KAMPALA 1313, WE BUY
A LOT OF UGANDAN COFFEE.

KEELEY

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